

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJECT: DONOR CONSULTATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND
-- SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS (SADAP)

REF: STATE 77403

1. MISSION OFFICER MET MARCH 29 WITH EC COMMISSION DG-VIII DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL MAURICE FOLEY'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT (MICHAEL LAIDLER) TO CONVEY SUBSTANCE REFTEL.
 2. WHILE PROMISING TO TRANSMIT DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS TO FOLEY, LAIDLER CONFIRMED THAT COMMISSION IS NOW LEANING IN THE DIRECTION OF FUNDING CERTAIN STUDY PAPERS ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. FOLEY'S PRESENT INCLINATION, ACCORDING TO LAIDLER, IS TO SPONSOR ANALYTICAL WORK ON SPECIFIC ISSUES OR GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS BY INFORMED INSTITUTIONS OR INDIVIDUALS, SUCH AS THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT, ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA, OR CERTAIN (UNNAMED) RHODESIAN NATIONALS. HYPOTHETICALLY, ONCE THESE
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STUDIES ARE COMPLETED, THE COMMISSION MAY CONVENE A CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES TO REVIEW THE ANALYSES AND DISCUSS WAYS OF OVERCOMING ANY IDENTIFIED GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE PERTAINING TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT. LAIDLER INDICATED THAT THE DATES FOR A DONOR CONFERENCE-- IF ONE IS TO BE HELD-- WOULD PROBABLY SLIP FROM THE ORIGINAL SUGGESTION PUT FORTH BY FOLEY (I.E., JULY 1978).

3. MISSION OFFICER INDICATED THAT U.S. WOULD WELCOME COMMISSION'S SUGGESTIONS REGARDING FORM AND PROCESS OF COLLABORATION ON DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND HOW ANY REGIONAL STUDIES INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION COULD BE STRUCTURED TO COMPLEMENT SADAP. LAIDLER RESPONDED THAT FOLEY IS, IN PRINCIPLE, INTERESTED IN EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH USAID IN THIS AREA, AND HE PARTICULARLY LOOKS FORWARD TO FURTHER CONTACTS WITH ROY STACY IN THE COMING MONTHS. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE COMMISSION, AS INDICATED ABOVE MAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE SPONSOR STUDIES DESIGNED, INTER ALIA, TO INVENTORY INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED OR IS NOW IN PROCESS REGARDING SOUTHERN AFRICA, LAIDLER SAW A RISK OF OVERLAP AND DUPLICATION WITH SOME ASPECTS OF SADAP. WHILE INDICATING THIS WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE, HE DID NOT SEEM TO BE OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT DUPLICATION, ASSUMING BOTH SIDES CONTINUE WITH THEIR PRESENT PLANS IN THIS FIELD. HE SAID, HOWEVER, HE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND TO FOLEY THAT COMMISSION KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AID/AFR/SA IN COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS.

4. REGARDING FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICA PROGRAM REVIEW PRIOR TO THE START OF NEGOTIATIONS ON LOME II, LAIDLER AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE USEFUL AND HOPED THAT DURING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT BY DIRECTOR GENERAL KLAUS MEYER TO THE DEPARTMENT SOME TIME COULD BE ALOTTED TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE AFR/EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FUND (EDF) COOPERATION. LAIDLER SAID HE HAD RECOMMENDED, WITHIN THE COMMISSION'S DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT, THAT SPECIFIC INTERNAL PROCEDURES BE DEFINED REGARDING CO-FINANCING OF REGIONAL PROJECTS SO THAT IN THE FUTURE, AS THE EC DEVELOPS PROJECT PROPOSALS UNDER THE REPLENISHED EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, PARALLEL FINANCING WITH OTHER DONORS WILL BE FEASIBLE ON A ROUTINE BASIS. MISSION OFFICER INDICATED, AND LAIDLER AGREED, THAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH MEYER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO EXAMINE, AT THE WORKING LEVEL, WAYS AND MEANS OF OVERCOMING OBSTACLES (IDENTIFIED DURING MRS. BUTCHER'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS LAST OCTOBER) TO GREATER EDF/AID COOPERATION ON NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROJECTS IN AFRICA. MORRIS

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